

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 09794 041525Z
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-06 NSC-07 EUR-08 IO-06
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1374
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 09794

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, OCON
SUBJECT: UNESCO: DG M'BOW'S MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN
DIGGS

1. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS, ACCOMPANIED BY PERMREP MET WITH
DG M'BOW FRIDAY AFTERNOON. THE MEETING HAD
BEEN REQUESTED BY CONGRESSMAN DIGGS AND M'BOW WELCOMED
THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A MEETING. M'BOW HAD RETURNED TO
PARIS THE PREVIOUS EVENING FROM MEETINGS IN KUWAIT.

2. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS EXPLAINED TO M'BOW WHAT HAD
OCCURRED IN THE US CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY THE HOUSE
AUTHORIZATION COMMITTEE, ON THE US ASSESSMENT. DIGGS
OUTLINED THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND ASSURED M'BOW OF
HIS CONTINUED INTEREST AND SUPPORT.

3. M'BOW SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN KEPT INFORMED, PAR-
TICULARLY BY AMBASSADOR BLANKENHORN (FRG). HE ES-
PECIALLY THANKED DIGGS FOR HIS ASSISTANCE AND SAID
THAT BLANKENHORN HAD REPORTED THE ACTIVE AND VERY
POSITIVE ROLE CONGRESSMAN DIGGS HAD PLAYED.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 09794 041525Z

4. M'BOW THEN SAID THAT HE WAS NOW CONVINCED THAT
UNESCO NEEDED TO WORK ON ITS IMAGE AND CONTACTS IN THE
UNITED STATES. HE SAID HE WAS THINKING OF ESTABLISHING
A ONE-MAN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. ITS PRIMARY FUNCTION
WOULD BE TO LIAISON WITH THE WORLD BANK, BUT IT COULD
ALSO PROVIDE LINKS WITH INTERESTED AMERICANS. M'BOW

SAID HE WOULD NOT GO FORWARD WITH THESE PLANS UNTIL THE FUNDING PROBLEM HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

5. DIGGS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE MORE UNESCO PRESENCE IN THE US AND ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF PLANS.

6. DIGGS INDICATED HE WAS GOING TO ABIDJAN AND M'BOW THEN RECOUNTED HIS CLOSE FRIENDSHIP, GOING BACK MANY YEARS, WITH PRESIDENT HOUPNET BOUIGNY.

7. THE MEETING, WHICH LASTED ABOUT HALF AN HOUR ENDED WITH THE CUSTOMARY EXCHANGES OF PLEASANTRIES.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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